



DARING *the* SUPERNATURAL



NO 7
MARCH

OUT OF *the* NIGHT

DOOMED TO
KNOW THE HUNGER
OF A WITCH-- TO
SLAY THE MAN CLOSEST
TO HER HEART! THAT
WAS THE FRIGHTENING
FATE OF LOVELY LINDA
GARRISON-- IN
"CURSE
OF THE WITCH!"

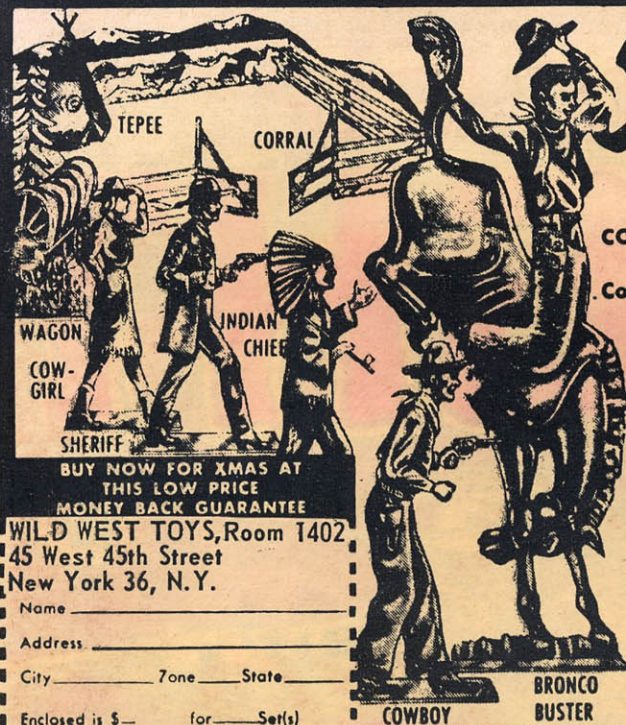
10¢



THERE'S SOME
STRANGE POWER
GUIDING ME--
TELLING ME-- TO
KILL THE ONE
I LOVE!



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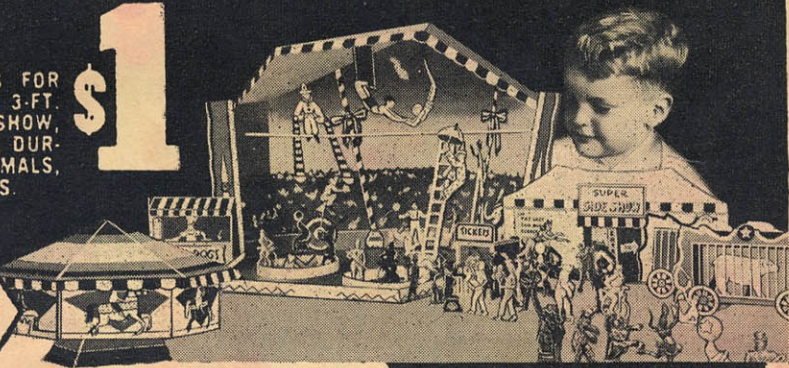
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Enclosed \$_____ for _____ Sets

THE SCIENCE OF BOTANY IS FILLED WITH SUCH STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS TERMS AS **WITCH-ALDER**, **WITCH-GRASS**, AND **WITCH-MEAL**-- BUT THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF HOW SUCH PLANTS **GOT** THEIR NAMES BELONGS NOT TO THE REALM OF SCIENCE, BUT TO THE FORBIDDEN WORLDS OF **SORCERY** AND **DEMONOLOGY**! FOR PROOF, ASK LINDA AND PAUL GARRISON--WHO EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND THE SUPREME HORROR OF...

The CURSE of the WITCH



AREN'T THESE MICHIGAN WOODS MAGNIFICENT, DARLING? I DID FIELD WORK FOR MY DEGREE IN BOTANY RIGHT HERE-- AND I ALWAYS WANTED TO COME BACK!



I'M GLAD YOU CHOSE THIS SPOT FOR OUR HONEYMOON, SWEET-HEART! IT'S WONDERFUL!



AS THE DISCARDED MATCH SUDDENLY FLARES--

OH! IT LANDED ON THAT MOSS-- WE'D BETTER STAMP IT OUT BEFORE IT STARTS A FOREST FIRE!

EASY, DARLING-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!



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AS THE FLAME AND SMOKE
VANISH WITH EXTREME
SUDDENNESS--

THAT--
THAT
FIRE
BEHAVED
MOST
STRANGELY,
PAUL!

YES, APPARENTLY THAT
MATCH LANDED RIGHT
IN A PATCH OF THE
INFLAMMABLE, POW-
DERY POLLEN OF
THE CLUB-MOSS
**LYCOPODIUM
CLAVATUM!**
THE STUFF IS GEN-
ERALLY CALLED **WITCH-
MEAL--** AND
THEREBY HANGS
A TALE!

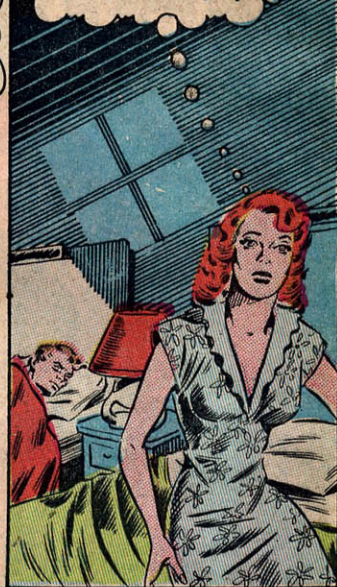


YOU SEE, IT SEEMS THAT
PEOPLE ONCE THOUGHT
WITCHES ACTUALLY **FED**
ON THIS POLLEN! ANCIENT
LEGENDS SAY THAT ANY-
ONE WHO **DESTROYED**
THE WITCHES' FOOD WAS
DOOMED TO KNOW THE
HUNGER OF A WITCH--
A HUNGER WHICH COULD
BE SATISFIED ONLY BY
THE KILLING OF A **LOVED**
ONE! BUT FORGET IT,
DARLING-- IT'S OBVIOUS-
LY A RIDICULOUS
SUPERSTITION!



BUT THAT MIDNIGHT--

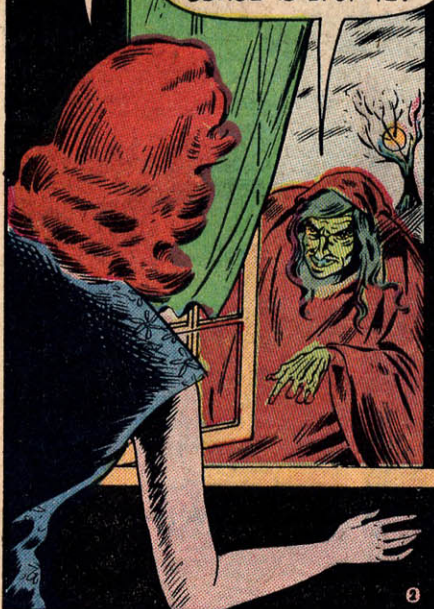
I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT
WOKE ME UP-- BUT I... I
HAVE AN OVERWHELMING
DESIRE TO GO TO THE
CABIN WINDOW!



THEN-- AT THE WINDOW, IN THE UNEARTHLY
MOONLIGHT-- A GHASTLY SIGHT FROM
OUT OF THE DREAD **UNKNOWN!**

GOOD
HEAVENS!

YE HAVE DESTROYED A
SUPPLY OF **WITCH-MEAL**,
LINDA GARRISON-- AND
SO NOW, **THE WITCH'S
CURSE** IS UPON YE!



FROM MIDNIGHT TILL DAWN, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, YE
SHALL KNOWN THE WITCH'S **HUNGER--THE AWFUL
HUNGER THAT CAN BE APPEASED ONLY BY
SLAYING A LOVED ONE!** EACH NIGHT THAT YE
SLAY NO ONE, YE SHALL SUFFER UNSPEAKABLE
TORTURES OF BODY AND MIND-- AND IF YE SLAY
NO ONE FOR **THREE NIGHTS** IN SUCCESSION--
**YE SHALL PERISH AND
BECOME A SLAVE OF
SATAN FOR ETERNITY!**



MY... MY ARMS
... THEY'RE
CHANGING!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING TO
MY WHOLE
BODY!

AS THE AWFUL
APPARITION
VANISHES--

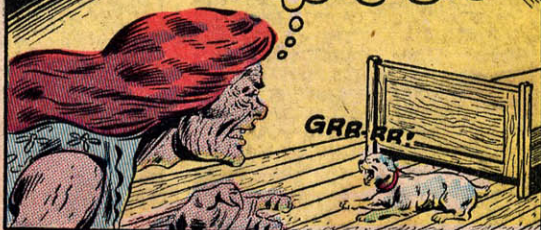
OH! I... I CAN SEE MY
REFLECTION! I... I'VE
BECOME A HIDEOUS
OLD HAG!



I... I MUSTN'T SCREAM! PAUL **MUSTN'T** WAKE UP AND SEE ME LIKE **THIS!** WAIT-- I **LOVE PAUL**-- AND I **MUST** KILL A **LOVED ONE!** I... I CAN'T **HELP** MYSELF!

DRIVEN BY AN IRRESISTIBLE COMPULSION TO **SLAY--**

I... I CAN'T WITHSTAND THE URGE-- I **MUST** KILL SOMEONE I LOVE! BUT... BUT MUST IT BE **PAUL?** HE'S NOT THE **ONLY** ONE I LOVE HERE-- THERE'S ALSO **SCOTTY--**



GRB-RR!

WITH A FIENDISH LUNGE--

I'VE **GOT** TO DO IT, SCOTTY -- GOT TO **KILL** YOU!



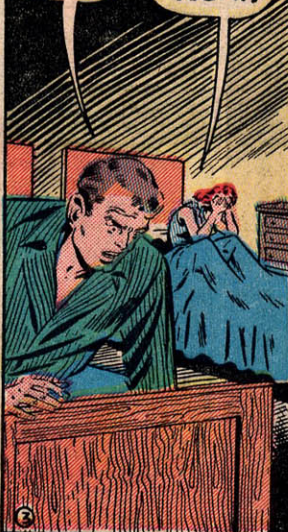
A MOMENT LATER--ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION--

I...I CHANGED BACK TO MY NORMAL SELF-- **THE MOMENT I KILLED SCOTTY!** IT WAS A HORRIBLE THING TO DO-- BUT IF SCOTTY HADN'T BEEN HERE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH **WORSE--** BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN **PAUL!** HE MUST NEVER KNOW OF THIS! I'D BETTER GET BACK TO BED AND PRETEND TO BE ASLEEP!

NEXT MORNING--

YE GODS-- **SCOTTY!** BETTER NOT LOOK, LINDA-- IT'S **NOT PRETTY!**

IT... IT'S TOO LATE-- I'VE ALREADY SEEN HIM! I FEEL SICK! LET'S FLY HOME-- **TODAY!**



THAT EVENING, AS THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR HOME CITY OF DETROIT--

YOU'D BETTER REST -- BECAUSE WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES, I **MIGHT KILL HIM!** AS SOON AS HIS BACK IS TURNED, I'LL TAKE A TAXI TO A HOTEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!

I... I DON'T DARE GO HOME WITH PAUL TONIGHT -- BECAUSE WHEN MIDNIGHT COMES, I **MIGHT KILL HIM!** AS SOON AS HIS BACK IS TURNED, I'LL TAKE A TAXI TO A HOTEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!



AS MIDNIGHT STRIKES IN MUFFLED TONES THROUGH THE QUIET HALLS OF A DETROIT HOTEL--

IT... IT'S HAPPENING-- **AGAIN!** AND I... I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL THAT TERRIBLE URGE!



THEN, WITH THE ANCIENT LORE OF WITCHCRAFT THROBBING IN HER BRAIN--

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MUST DO-- AS IF I'VE DONE IT THOUSANDS OF TIMES BEFORE! I MUST KILL **ANOTHER** LOVED ONE! I MUST KILL-- KILL-- KILL!



WITH THE POWER OF HER NEW BEING, LINDA GLIDES FROM HER HOTEL WINDOW--

I MUST GO HOME-- TO PAUL-- TO **KILL** HIM!



SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE NEW GARRISON HOME IN THE SUBURBS--

HE ISN'T HOME-- HE MUST BE OUT SEARCHING FOR ME! BUT I MUST KILL SOMEONE I LOVE-- **I MUST!** WAIT-- MY BEST FRIEND-- SHE LIVES NEAR HERE!



MINUTES LATER--

KILL-- MUST KILL!

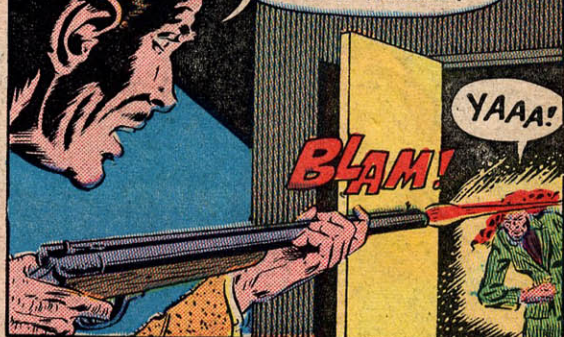
YE GODS! GET OUT OF THE WAY, EDITH!

OH!!



REACHING FOR THE NEARBY RIFLE--

BAH-- I FIRED TOO FAST-- I ONLY CREASED IT! NOW IT'LL GET AWAY BEFORE I CAN RELOAD!



DON'T... DON'T GO AFTER IT, JOHN!
THERE... THERE WAS SOMETHING IN
THAT CREATURE'S EYES THAT WAS
FAMILIAR-- IT **REMINDED**
ME OF SOMEONE!
SOMEHOW, I'D
RATHER SHE
GOT AWAY!

MY HEAD-- IT'S
REELING... MUST
GET HOME--
WHILE
I CAN!

MADE IT-- BUT... BUT I
HAVEN'T KILLED SOME-
ONE I TRULY CARE FOR!
AND NOW, THE AWFUL
AGONY THE WITCH SPOKE
OF-- THE UNSPEAKABLE
TORTURE OF BODY AND
MIND--IT'S BEGINNING!
OHH-- I CAN'T **BEAR** IT!
I THINK I'M GOING
TO FAINT-- OHHHH!

SHORTLY AFTER DAWN--

WHAT---
LINDA!

SHE'S BEEN UNCONSCIOUS
--BUT SHE'S BEGINNING
TO STIR! OH, DARLING,
I'VE LOOKED EVERY-
WHERE FOR YOU! WHAT
HAPPENED? WHAT'S
WRONG WITH YOUR
HEAD!

IT WAS **AWFUL**, PAUL! I...I
WAS **KIDNAPPED** AT THE
AIRPORT... DRIVEN AWAY...
ROBBED... SHOT! THEY LEFT
ME FOR DEAD! I JUST
MANAGED TO MAKE IT HOME
BEFORE PASSING OUT!
PLEASE-- TAKE ME
TO MY ROOM---

BUT AS SOON AS PAUL LEAVES
TO CALL A DOCTOR--

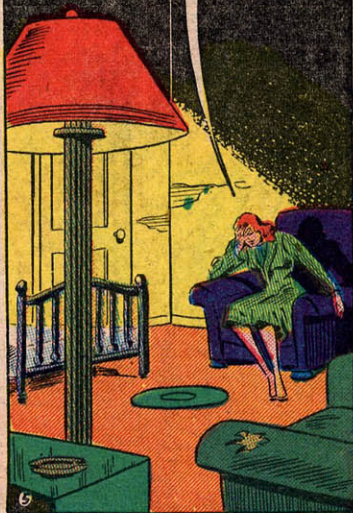
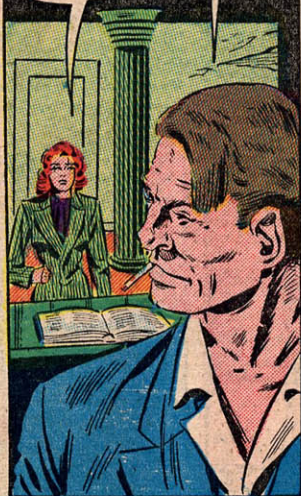
I... I CAN'T STAY HERE,
KNOWING THAT I'LL BE
COMPELLED TO KILL PAUL
TONIGHT! I... I'LL SNEAK
OUT THE BACK-- AND
NEVER SEE HIM
AGAIN!

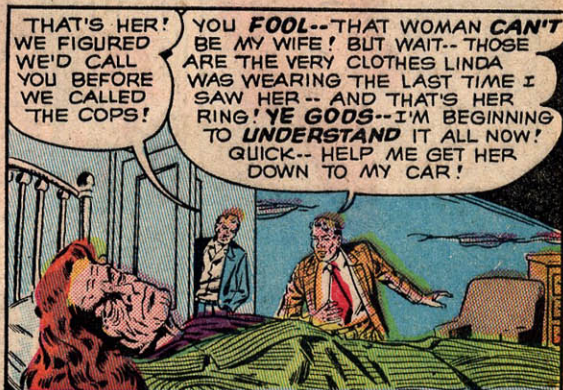
AN HOUR LATER-- AT A
CHEAP HOTEL--

I... I'D
LIKE A
ROOM
**WITHOUT A
WINDOW,**
PLEASE!

SURE, LADY--
THAT'LL
BE TWO
BUCKS!

GOOD! I LOCKED THE DOOR
AND THREW THE KEY DOWN
THE SINK DRAIN! NOW I
CAN'T GET OUT OF THIS
ROOM TO KILL ANYONE, NO
MATTER **HOW** MUCH I
MAY WANT TO!





AT DAWN--

SHE'S CHANGING BACK INTO HER NORMAL SELF NOW... INTO THE LINDA I KNOW! AND... AND SHE'S STIRRING, BEGINNING TO REVIVE!

PAUL! IT... IT'S DAWN-- YOU... YOU MUST HAVE WATCHED ME CHANGE BACK INTO---

YES, DARLING-- I SAW YOU-- AND I KNOW **EVERY-THING** NOW! IT ALL ADDS UP --THE WITCH-MEAL, SCOTTY-- **EVERY-THING! THE WITCH'S CURSE** WAS PUT UPON YOU, WAGN'T IT?

YES, SOB!-- BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP ME! I HAVEN'T SLAIN A LOVED ONE FOR TWO NIGHTS NOW-- AND IF I DON'T KILL ANYONE TONIGHT, THEN I... I'LL PERISH AND BECOME A SLAVE OF SATAN FOR ETERNITY! YOU MUSTN'T BE WITH ME AT MIDNIGHT, BECAUSE THE IMPULSE TO KILL IS IRRESISTIBLE -- SO... SO LEAVE ME, DARLING!

NO! THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE YOU! IT'S A LONG SHOT-- BUT WE'RE GOING FOR A LONG DRIVE-- **NOW!**

WHERE-- AM-- I---

THAT NIGHT--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PLAN IS, PAUL, BUT I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS TRIP! IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO MID-NIGHT-- AND I'D RATHER DIE THAN HARM YOU! LET ME OUT AND DRIVE AWAY QUICKLY-- **PLEASE!**

NOT WHEN WE'RE SO CLOSE TO OUR DESTINATION! **THERE'S** THE GRASSY PLAIN I HAD IN MIND-- RIGHT AHEAD OF US!



SOON AFTERWARDS--

THERE, THAT DOES IT! NOW TO---

IT... IT'S **TOO LATE**, PAUL! IT MUST BE MIDNIGHT, BECAUSE I... I'M **CHANGING!** RUN-- **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!**

IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN MOMENT--

GREAT GUNS-- SHE'S GOT **SUPERHUMAN** STRENGTH! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO---

KILL! KILL!

I'M SORRY, DARLING-- BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

OH!!

WHAM!



MINUTES LATER--

SHE'LL RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS IN A FEW MINUTES-- AND SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AT ME! THEN ALL I'LL HAVE TO DO IS WAIT--
FOR DAWN!



AFTER LINDA REVIVES--

SHE... SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS NOW-- IT... IT'S BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN! I... I CAN'T BEAR EVEN TO LOOK AT HER! I... I'VE JUST GOT TO KEEP REMEMBERING HOW MUCH I LOVED HER-- AS SHE **WAS!**

**KILL!
KILL!
KILL!**



FINALLY, AS THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN BREAKS IN THE EASTERN SKY, A FIENDISH VISITOR APPEARS--

HA-HAA! SO MY VICTIM AWAITS ME, TIED TO A STAKE! WHAT A PERFECT SETTING FOR THE AGONIES SHE WILL SUFFER AS I CLAIM HER AS ONE OF SATAN'S OWN!

SHE'S NOT YOUR VICTIM **YET**, YOU DEMON! A MATCH **STARTED** THIS --AND A MATCH CAN **FINISH** IT!



THEN, IN A SUDDEN BURST OF CRACKLING FLAME--

HA-- NOW YOU'RE THE VICTIM, FIEND! WITCH-GRASS HAS BEEN IGNITED UNDER YOU!

WITCH-GRASS? NO-- NO! YAAGHHH!



A MOMENT LATER--

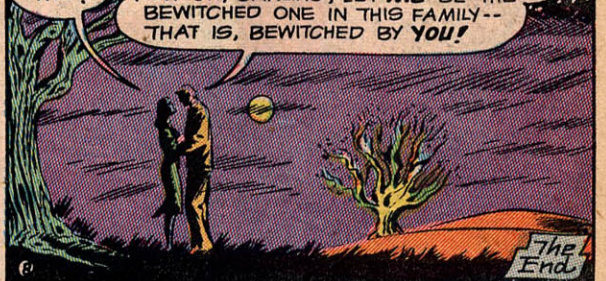
OHH-- I... I'VE REVERTED TO MY **NORMAL SELF AGAIN!**

YES... AND THAT WITCH REVERTED TO THE FORM SHE **SHOULD** HAVE ASSUMED SEVERAL CENTURIES AGO! **SHE'LL NEVER PUT ANYONE UNDER THE WITCH'S CURSE AGAIN-- AND YOU'RE FREE OF IT FOREVER, DARLING!**



BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PAUL-- HOW DID YOU SAVE ME?

LUCKILY, I REMEMBERED **ANOTHER** LEGEND FROM MY BOTANICAL STUDIES! **PANICUM-CAPILLARE--** OTHERWISE KNOWN AS **WITCH-GRASS--** WAS SUPPOSEDLY ABLE TO DESTROY **ANY WITCH** WHO INHALED ITS SMOKE, AND RELEASE **ANY HUMAN** UNDER THE WITCH'S CURSE! THANK HEAVEN IT WORKED, BUT FROM NOW ON, DARLING, LET **ME** BE THE BEWITCHED ONE IN THIS FAMILY-- THAT IS, BEWITCHED BY **YOU!**



The End

Out of the Unknown ...TO YOU!



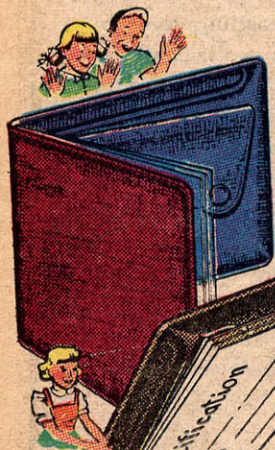
That's **ADVENTURES INTO THE** ★★
★★ **UNKNOWN!**

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GRAIN!

Cats NINE LIVES

JIMNICHOLS GRIMLY rested his hands on the butts of his holstered revolvers as he strode up the jungle trail to where the natives were jabbering in fright among themselves.

"What's holding us up, M'kala?" he demanded of the native leader. "We haven't reached the elephant graveyard yet...so tell the bearers to get moving again...fast!"

"We...we no go more, bwana," M'kala quavered, fear etched in his old face. "Look...marks of tiger-woman on ground!"

Nichols glanced down to where the native was pointing, and saw the prints of a tiger's fore-feet. Slightly behind were the prints of two rather delicate human feet. There were no imprints of the tiger's hind-feet.

"I'm beginning to understand," Nichols said, his voice edged with menace. "You're trying to hold me up for more money before you take me to that fortune in ivory...by making me think it's dangerous to go up this trail. But you picked the wrong method...because I don't believe that hogwash about tiger-women. You made those imprints yourself with a tiger's stuffed paws, and then you had one of your boys step in back to leave womanish prints. But I'm fed up with your tricks...either you order your men to get going again, or you'll never give another order!"

"Is...is no *trick*, bwana," the old man said, cringing. "Is real tiger-woman...is *death* to go more."

CRACK!

Smoke curled out of Nichols' .38, wavering in the air as old M'kala swayed on his feet before sinking slowly to the ground.

Revolver still in hand, Nichols faced the

rest of the natives over the body of their dead leader. "That's what'll happen to all of you unless you do as I say!" Nichols grated. "Nothing's going to keep me from getting my hands on the ivory in that elephant graveyard..."

He stopped suddenly, his eyes riveted on a spot about fifty yards up the trail, where the lithe, tawny figure of an exoticly beautiful girl had emerged from the bushes. She was walking toward him now with a strangely feline grace, and so mesmerized by her beauty was Nichols that he didn't even try to stop the natives from fleeing in terror down the trail, all of them screaming, "Tiger-woman! Tiger-woman!"

It was only when the girl was suddenly transformed into a snarling tiger before Nichols' eyes that he realized the mortal peril he was in. The beast was some twenty yards away by the time he unlimbered the rifle slung from his shoulder. Only a high-powered rifle would stop a beast like that, Nichols knew, as he aimed carefully and pulled the trigger.

He emptied the entire clip of eight cartridges point blank into the charging tiger. When the smoke cleared, there was the figure of the tawny girl once again...but this time her body lay lifeless in the jungle grass.

Grinning, Nichols approached to examine his kill. But just as he bent down to peer closely at her, the girl beneath him changed instantaneously into a tiger...a tiger with raking claws and tearing fangs. And Jim Nichols' last thought was that he had shot her *eight* times, but cats were supposed to have *nine* lives.

CAN THE DEAD RETURN? DO GHOSTS REALLY EXIST... AND COME BACK TO HAUNT THE LIVING? GAIL FLEMING, LIKE MOST PEOPLE, WOULD HAVE SAID IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE...UNTIL SHE FOUND HERSELF AN UNWILLING HOSTESS TO...

The SPECTRAL VISITOR



AS RAIN FALLS ON A SMALL CEMETERY, A GRIM-FACED GROUP LOOKS ON AS A COFFIN IS LOWERED INTO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE...

ASHES UNTO ASHES AND DUST UNTO DUST! MAY HIS SOUL FIND FULFILLMENT, REST AND ETERNAL PEACE! AMEN!



POOR DAD... I **STILL** CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD! IT...IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY! ONLY A WEEK AGO WE WERE STILL TO-GETHER... AND NOW I'M **ALONE!**

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, GAIL! I KNOW IT'S TOO SOON AND THIS IS HARDLY THE PLACE... BUT I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, JUST THE SAME!





WHY DON'T WE GET MARRIED **NOW...** INSTEAD OF WAITING AS WE PLANNED? I JUST DON'T **LIKE** THE IDEA OF YOUR BEING ALONE IN THAT BIG HOUSE.

I DO LOVE YOU, MARK... BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOU. I... I NEED TIME TO COLLECT MYSELF.

DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD, MY BOY. AFTER ALL, SHE IS UPSET, BUT SHE **DOES** LOVE YOU. I'LL STAY ON WITH HER FOR A FEW WEEKS, AND I'M CERTAIN THINGS WILL STRAIGHTEN OUT.

THANK YOU, SIR, BUT KEEP AN EYE ON HER. I'M **WORRIED!**



LATE THAT SAME EVENING...

I **LIKE** THAT YOUNG MAN OF YOURS, GAIL. A BIT IMPULSIVE, PERHAPS, BUT THEN YOUNG MEN IN LOVE USUALLY ARE. ANYWAY, YOU GO ON UP TO BED. GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING.

THANK YOU, UNCLE PETER. YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND AND GOOD.



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, GAIL AWAKENS FROM A FITFUL SLEEP... A COLD STAB OF FEAR CHILLING HER HEART!

SOMETHING'S IN THE ROOM! THAT STRANGE, SHUFFLING SOUND...



THEN... A SPECTRAL VISION!

FATHER!

I HAVE COME A GREAT DISTANCE, TRAVELED A LONG, PAINFUL ROAD... SO THAT I MAY WARN YOU OF AN **IMPENDING DANGER!**



YOU MUST NOT MARRY MARK. IT IS NOT YOU, BUT THE INHERITANCE PROPERTY I HAVE LEFT YOU, THAT HE **REALLY** LOVES.

BUT... BUT YOU LIKED MARK. YOU TOLD ME SO MANY TIMES.



DEATH BRINGS WISDOM, MY DAUGHTER. IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO SEE HIM NOW FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS. HEED MY WARNING... AND **SEND HIM AWAY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

BUT I... **FATHER! WAIT... DON'T LEAVE ME!**



TWO WEEKS PASS, BUT THE SHOCK OF HER FRIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE STILL CLINGS TO GAIL'S TORTURED MIND! THEN, EARLY ONE EVENING...

MARK... I CAN'T SEE YOU! PLEASE GO AWAY!
NOT UNTIL I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! THIS TIME I'M COMING IN!



NOW WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHEN I CALL YOU'RE NOT AT HOME! YOU WON'T ANSWER MY LETTERS! WHY?

I'VE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE! SOMETHING I WOULDN'T BELIEVE, EITHER... BUT IT'S TRUE!



I'VE SEEN MY FATHER'S GHOST! HE'S WARNED ME, MARK... ABOUT YOU! HE SAYS THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME... THAT YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN MY MONEY!



IT'S A LIE! THE WHOLE THING IS NONSENSE! GHOSTS DON'T EXIST, GAIL! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?

I'M NOT MENTALLY ILL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT! WHY WERE YOU SO ANXIOUS TO MARRY ME SO SOON AFTER MY FATHER DIED? WHY?



YOU KNOW WHY, DAUGHTER! HE CAN'T WAIT TILL HE CAN LAY HIS HANDS UPON YOUR WEALTH! HEED MY FINAL WARNING... NEVER PERMIT HIM TO ENTER MY HOUSE AGAIN!



GHOSTS DON'T EXIST IN MY BOOK, AND THAT GOES FOR THIS ONE, TOO!



THE LUMINOUS FIGURE TRIES TO ELUDE MARK'S GRASP, BUT...



THERE'S YOUR FORTUNE HUNTER, GAIL...
YOUR UNCLE PETER! THAT LUMINOUS COSTUME AND PHONEY MASK WERE ALL HE NEEDED TO SCARE YOU OUT OF YOUR WITS! ONCE HE WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TURNING YOU AGAINST ME, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NEXT ON HIS LIST!



**MARK!
HE'S GOT
A GUN!**

YES, MY DEAR NIECE...
WITH A BULLET FOR EACH OF YOU! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS MEDDLING YOUNG FOOL, I COULD HAVE MANEUVERED YOUR INHERITANCE INTO MY OWN HANDS! BUT IF I CAN'T HAVE IT NOW...
NEITHER WILL YOU!



THEN... A GRISLY VOICE...

**NO, PETER!
YOUR EVIL IS
FINISHED!**

LOOK!

**HOLY
SMOKE!**



IT'S FATHER'S
GHOST...ATTACKING
UNCLE PETER!



ONLY GREAT PERIL... TO ONE HE LOVED DEARLY IN LIFE... CAN RECALL A SPIRIT... FROM THE BEYOND! I HAVE COME... TO SAVE YOU... FOR A LIFE OF HAPPINESS... WITH THE MAN AT YOUR SIDE!



YOU HEARD WHAT FATHER SAID! WE CAN GET MARRIED TOMORROW... AND I'LL NEVER DOUBT YOU AGAIN, DARLING, EVER!

I CAN HARDLY BLAME YOU FOR DOUBTING, HONEY! REMEMBER, I'M THE GUY WHO SAID THERE WERE NO SUCH THINGS AS GHOSTS!



**THE
END**

In the space of one incredible instant, Willie Barnes was able to change wishful thinking into glittering reality! Immense wealth and power were his, but also... **THE SEEDS OF DOOM!** IMPOSSIBLE, you say? Then read on, and discover what fate had in store for the man who possessed...

The Miraculous LAMP!



THAT EVENING, AS WILLIE TRUDGED TOWARD HIS SHABBY APARTMENT --

I'LL GET **EVEN** WITH HIM SOMEDAY -- AND ALL THE OTHERS, TOO! I'LL HIT IT REAL BIG -- AND THEN THEY'LL BE SORRY THEY KICKED ME AROUND -- ONLY **THEN** IT WON'T DO 'EM ANY GOOD!



HI, DORIS! SAY--WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

YOU SHOULD KNOW, WILLIE! WHEN YOU DON'T PAY THE BILL, THEY **CUT THEM OFF!**



QUICKLY, WILLIE TORE OPEN THE PACKAGE...

DON'T RUB IT IN, KID-- WE'LL BE LIVING IN CLOVER SOMEDAY! WHAT'S THAT PACKAGE?

IT'S FOR YOU -- FROM YOUR UNCLE FRANK IN INDIA! CAME THIS MORNING!



NOTHING INSIDE BUT AN OLD LAMP AND THIS NOTE! LISTEN: "MY DEAR NEPHEW, BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS, I'LL BE DEAD, AND THIS LITTLE LAMP IS ALL I CAN BEQUEATH YOU. IT CAN LIGHT THE WAY TO GOOD OR EVIL, AND IT'S MY SINCERE HOPE YOU WILL CHOOSE THE GOOD. YOUR LOVING UNCLE, FRANK!"

AS THE WICK SPUTTERED, A STRANGE CLOUD OF GUSHING SMOKE BLOWED UPWARD! THEN --

GREAT GUNS! SOME-THINGS TAKING SHAPE!

THE OLD SKINFINT-- HE MUST'VE MADE A FORTUNE! BUT WHAT DOES HE LEAVE ME-- A BATTERED TIN LAMP! WHAT WAS THE OLD NUT DRIVING AT?

I DON'T KNOW, WILLIE-- AND I'M TOO TIRED TO REALLY CARE! I'M GOING TO BED-- GOOD NIGHT!



ALONE IN THE DARKENED ROOM... WILLIE PONDERED HIS BAD LUCK --

I MAY AS WELL PUT THIS CRUMMY THING TO USE! ONE THING FOR SURE, MY UNCLE'S TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER! WHAT COULD BE A MORE PRACTICAL GIFT THAN A LAMP WHEN THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF?



BE NOT AFRAID,
LITTLE ONE!
I AM **BOKOR**,
GUARDIAN OF
THE LAMP, HERE
TO **SERVE**
YOU! NAME
YOUR DESIRE,
AND IT SHALL
BE GRANTED!



THAT IS THE EASIEST OF ALL!
YOU SHALL HAVE GOLD, PEARLS
AND DIAMONDS, ALL IN THE
TWINKLING OF AN EYE!
CLOSE YOUR EYES, LITTLE
ONE, AND PREPARE
FOR A JOURNEY!



Y-YOU MEAN
I CAN HAVE
ANYTHING?
E-EVEN
MONEY?



GOLD... PEARLS!
HEAPS OF IT! Y-YOU
WERE TELLING
THE TRUTH!

OF COURSE...
AND IT'S **YOURS!**
AS MUCH AS
YOU WANT!

ONE BLINDING INSTANT LATER...

THIS SMOKE -- I CAN'T
SEE! WH-WHERE
ARE WE?

IN THE BURIAL VAULT OF THE
ANCIENT KING, AHARMA-KAHMAN!
REMOVE YOUR HANDS -- AND
FEAST YOUR EYES!



I ALWAYS KNEW
I'D HIT IT BIG, BUT
THIS IS **BIGGER**
THAN I EVER DREAMED!
MONEY MEANS **POWER**--
AND POWER IS WHAT
I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED! FROM NOW
ON **I'M** THE ONE
WHO'S GOING TO
DO THE PUSHING
AROUND!

THIS'LL DO
FOR A STARTER!
TAKE ME
BACK!

YOUR WISH IS MY
COMMAND! CLOSE YOUR
EYES ONCE MORE, AND
IT SHALL BE DONE!



ONCE AGAIN THE TOWERING CREATURE
UTTERED THE STRANGE WORD--
SANDOR! THE BLINDING FLASH
FOLLOWED, AND THEN --

WE'RE BACK
AGAIN-- JUST
LIKE THAT!

A MERE
TRIFLE, LITTLE
ONE-- FOR ONE
OF MY
INFINITE
POWERS!

NOW I MUST RETURN! WHEN
YOU HAVE NEED OF ME, LIGHT
THE LAMP AND I WILL COME
--NO MATTER HOW OFTEN!

DON'T WORRY, PAL--
I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU
A LOT **BUSIER**
THAN YOU THINK!

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, IN AN
OFFICE IN THE CORE OF THE
FINANCIAL DISTRICT...

IT'S GETTING WORSE, GENTLEMEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT
SOMEBODY'S BUYING INTO THE
MARKET LIKE A WILD MAN! HE'LL
GOBBLE US ALL UP AT
THIS RATE!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND
OUT WHO HE IS, CRUTHERS--
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A
DEAL WITH HIM!

ALL RIGHT, WATKINS, DON'T
JUST STAND THERE! WHAT IS IT?

IT--IT'S **HIM**, SIR! THE
INVESTOR WHO'S BEEN BUYING
UP ALL THE STOCK! H-HE
REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW!

I DO NOT **REQUEST** AN INTERVIEW...
I **DEMAND** IT! MY NAME IS
WILLIAM BARNES, GENTLEMEN!
SHALL WE GET DOWN
TO BUSINESS?

OF COURSE, SIR!
D-DO COME IN!

AS THE
MEETING
DREW TO A CLOSE...

...THAT'S MY PROPOSITION, GENTLEMEN!
EITHER YOU MERGE YOUR COMPANIES
AND NAME ME PRESIDENT OF
THE BOARD, OR I BUY YOU
OUT! WHICH WILL
IT BE?

W-WE ACCEPT
YOUR PROPOSITION,
MR. BARNES--
A-AND WE'RE
ETERNALLY
GRATEFUL!

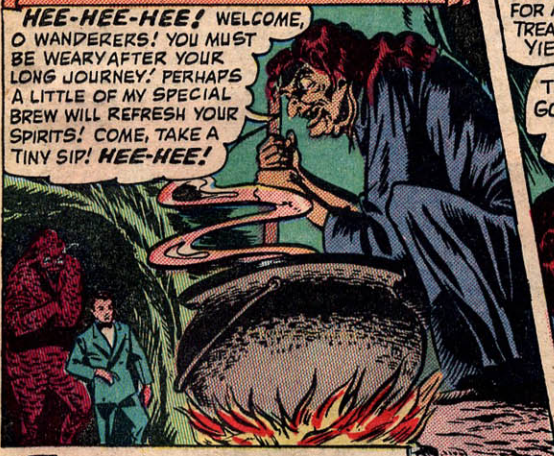
AS THE MONTHS PASSED, WILLIE'S
RISE TO POWER GREW SWIFTER!
UNCEASINGLY, HE BENT HIS
EFFORTS TOWARD GREATER
AND GREATER WEALTH...

YOU ARE
GREEDY, LITTLE
MASTER! WHAT IS IT
YOU WISH **THIS TIME--**
MORE MONEY?

YES, **LOTS MORE!**
I WANT TO BE THE
MOST POWERFUL
MAN IN
THE WORLD!

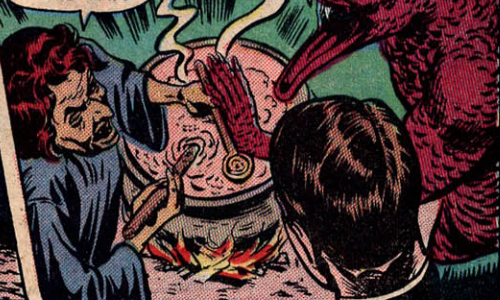
AGAIN AND AGAIN WILLIE WAS TRANS-
PORTED TO STRANGE WORLDS...

HEE-HEE-HEE! WELCOME,
O WANDERERS! YOU MUST
BE WEARY AFTER YOUR
LONG JOURNEY. PERHAPS
A LITTLE OF MY SPECIAL
BREW WILL REFRESH YOUR
SPIRITS! COME, TAKE A
TINY SIP! **HEE-HEE!**



NONE OF YOUR LIZARD'S POISON, HAG! I AM THE
POWER OF THE LAMP, AND I DEMAND SAFE PASSAGE
FOR MY MORTAL COMPANION! THE WITCH'S
TREASURE IS WHAT I SEEK, AND YOU MUST
YIELD TO MY GREATER POWER!

THEN YIELD I DO!
GO! MY LITTLE DEMONS
WILL POINT
THE WAY!



IN A CAVE PILED HIGH WITH
FABULOUS TREASURE--

YOU SURE KNOW THE RIGHT PLACES,
BOKOR! OKAY, I'VE GOT ALL THE
LOOT I CAN CARRY! --
LET'S GO!



WITHIN A YEAR WILLIE'S FORTUNE REACHED
STAGGERING HEIGHTS! THEN, ONE
EVENING, WHILE ENJOYING HIS LUXURIES...

A COMMITTEE HAS CALLED, SIR --
REPRESENTING A FUND FOR UNDER-
PRIVILEGED CHILDREN! THEY, ER,
WOULD LIKE A CONTRIBUTION!

YOU KNOW I DON'T
WASTE GOOD MONEY ON
FOOLISH CHARITIES!
**THROW THEM
OUT!**



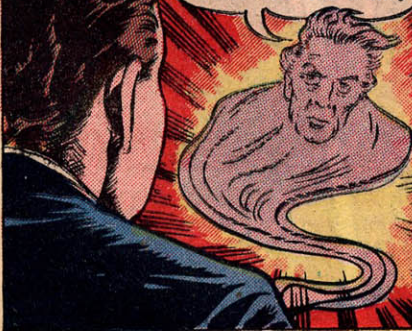
THOSE NO-GOOD
CHISELERS! ALWAYS
TRYING TO WORM A
BUCK OUT OF -- HUH?
SOMETHING'S GONE
WRONG WITH THE FIRE!
THERE'S SOMETHING
COMING --



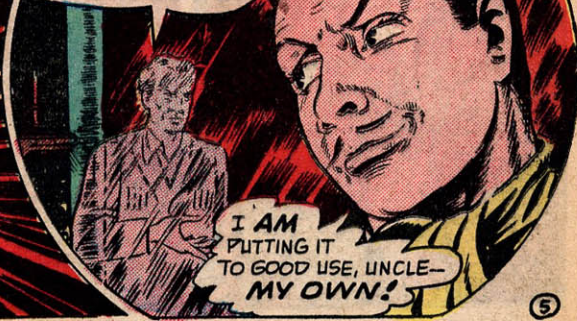
WHIRLING STRANGELY, FROM OUT OF
THE TWISTING FLAMES...

WH-WHO ARE
YOU?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, WILLIE
-- BUT I AM YOUR UNCLE
FRANK! IT WAS I WHO
SENT YOU THE LAMP!



YOU'VE PROVED A
DISAPPOINTMENT, WILLIE!
YOU'VE USED THE LAMP ONLY FOR
PERSONAL GAIN, FOR POWER AND EVIL
ENDS! THESE WERE NEVER MY PURPOSES,
AND I BEG OF YOU TO PUT IT TO
**GOOD USE -- BEFORE
IT IS TOO LATE!**



I AM
PUTTING IT
TO GOOD USE, UNCLE--
MY OWN!

YOU WILL BE DESTROYED
BY YOUR OWN GREED!
CHANGE YOUR WAYS--
WHILE THERE IS
STILL TIME!

YOU'RE WASTING
YOUR TIME, UNCLE
--I'LL NEVER CHANGE!
LOOK-- I DRINK A TOAST--
TO MY GREED! MAY
IT GO ON, AND ON AND
ON! HAA-HA-HA!

WHO'S THAT? OH--
IT'S YOU--SPYING
AGAIN!

I WASN'T SPYING, WILLIE!
I HEARD YOU SPEAKING
TO SOMEONE AS I CAME
BY--AND I WONDERED
WHO IT COULD BE!



YOU'RE LYING, DORIS! YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT A MISERABLE,
SNEAKING
LITTLE
CHEAT!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU,
WILLIE? HOW DID YOU
ACCUMULATE ALL
THIS WEALTH?

WAS IT A REWARD
FOR ANYTHING BUT
YOUR OWN MONSTROUS
GREED?

NOW GET OUT OF MY HOUSE--
TONIGHT! DON'T EVER COME
BACK, AND DON'T EXPECT A
CENT FROM ME! WE'RE
THROUGH, DORIS--
FOR GOOD!

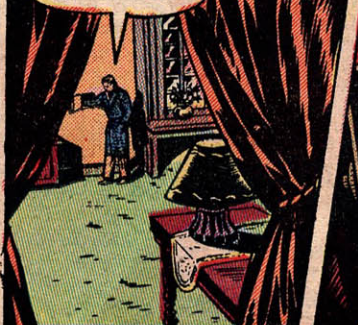
YES,
WILLIE--
WE ARE
THROUGH--
AND I'M
GLAD!

I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE
THAT FROM YOU!

SLAP!

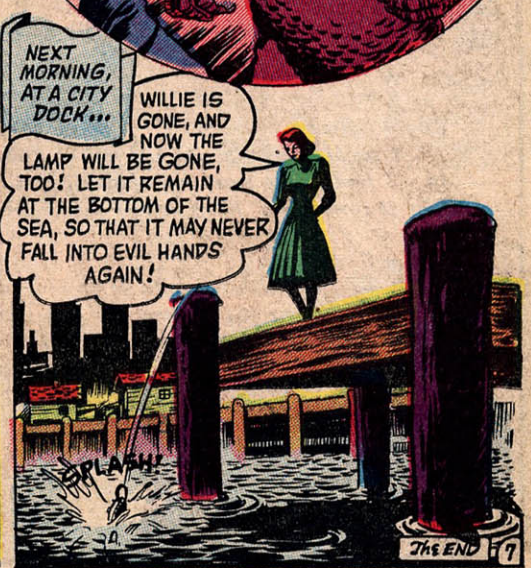


LATER THAT NIGHT --
SHE'S GONE NOW, AND EVERY
THING IS MINE! I HAVE
POSITION, WEALTH, POWER--
EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED--
AND I'M BEYOND THE REACH
OF ALL MEN!



WITH MY LAMP
I CAN-- YE GODS!
IT'S GONE!





OUT of the NIGHT... TO YOU!

WE WISH WE could have invited all of you to our big birthday party. You see, with this issue America's leading supernatural magazine, "Out of The Night", becomes one year old! Quite a popular baby, we must say, for if we had wanted to invite you *all*, there wouldn't have been enough room to hold everybody in *ten* Madison Square Gardens!

Looking back now, we have to fight back the desire to say, "We told you so!" to the initial doubters. Oh, there were many who exclaimed, "What? Another supernatural?" But we had a ready reply: "Out of The Night" was not to be like anything else in the field. Apparently we've succeeded, to judge by the flood of congratulatory letters from our ever-growing audience. Small wonder, really, for we've dedicated ourselves to bring you, our loyal fans, the very best in electrifying and eerie stories about the mysterious worlds which lie beyond mortal ken. And we've taken great pains to have these stories brilliantly illustrated by a galaxy of America's finest artists.

Consider the present issue, 'which we modestly consider our greatest yet. "The Curse of the Witch" has everything, building up to an overwhelmingly chilling

climax that even constant rereading cannot tarnish. "The Miraculous Lamp!" is tops in tingling thrills, a fascinating yarn concerning crime and punishment, and haunted by as weird a menace as you've encountered. You'll long remember "The Spectral Visitor", a marvellously gripping account of love and hate, and vengeance from beyond the grave. As for "The Avenging Soul", read *that* in a well-lighted room, for its pulse-stopping chills will leave you gasping!

These, readers, are just a *few* of the great yarns you'll find in this bangup issue. We haven't spared a thing. Usually at a birthday party, the guests bring the happy celebrant a present, but in this case we're reversing the procedure. This is our birthday gift to *you*, and you richly deserve it.

Truly, fans, we feel greatly in your debt. You've made our efforts successful by your helpful comments and suggestions, and above all, by your never-ceasing encouragement. If you haven't written to The Editor, "Out of The Night", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y., why not join the thousands of other fans who have? Remember, we'll print your comments as soon as possible! And now, let's get at some of our mail:

"Dear Editor:-

I simply had to write and tell you what a wonderful book 'Out of The Night' is. I find it the most breathtaking thriller of all comics, and I'll buy it every time it comes out. Keep up the good work! A regular buyer...

--N. Campbell, Fitzgerald, Ga."

"Dear Editor:-

I am a mother who is 28 years old, and I have three little ones. We all read your 'Out of The Night', and it's just grand. You can't find any book to beat it! We always buy our copy just as soon as it appears on the stands.

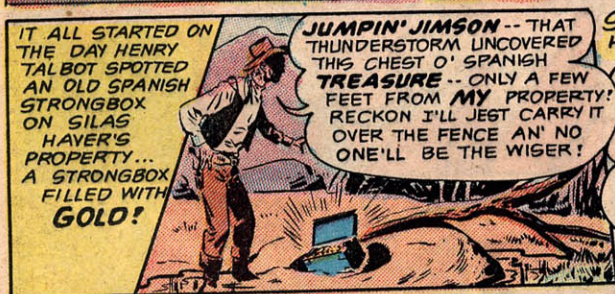
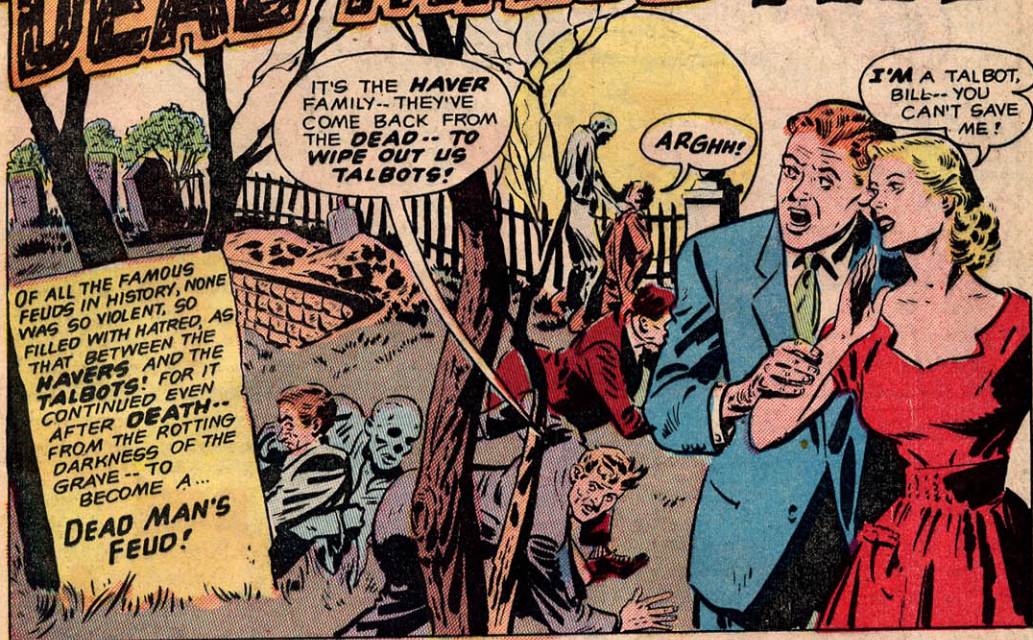
--Mrs. Kurt Kuchno, Highland, Calif."

"Dear Editor:-

I've just finished reading 'Out of The Night', and I think it the best of all the comics I have ever read.

--C. Winckler, Chicago, Ill."

DEAD MAN'S FEUD



SUDDENLY, FROM AROUND A HILL-- SILAS HAVER HIMSELF!

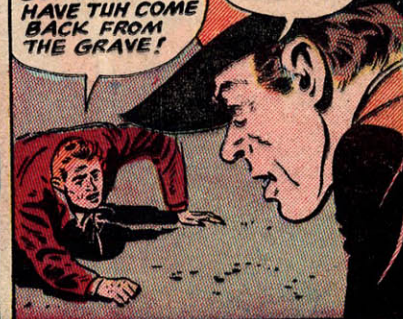
TALBOT-- I SAW WHAT YUH FOUND ON MUH LAND! YUH'RE TRESPASSIN'-- AN' I GOT A RIGHT TO BLAST DAYLIGHT THROUGH YUH!

YUH'RE MIGHTY QUICK FLAPPIN' YORE JAW, HAVER-- BUT YUH'RE TOO YALLER TUH PULL IRON!



I'M DONE FOR, TALBOT-- BUT I'LL GET EVEN-- IF I HAVE TUH COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE!

IT'S A LONG RIDE BACK, SILAS!



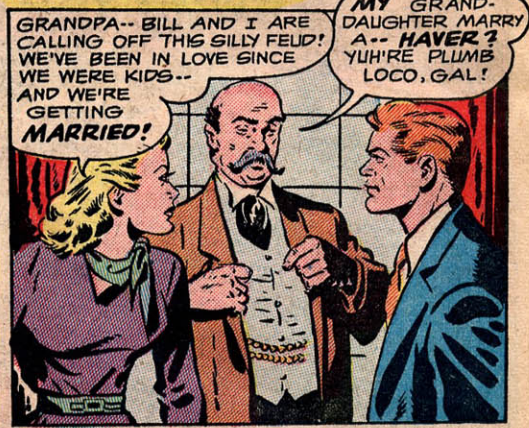
A LIGHTNING-LIKE DRAW-- TWO SHOTS THAT SOUND LIKE ONE--



MANY YEARS PASSED-- BUT THE FEUD BETWEEN THE FAMILIES RAGED WITH UNABATED FURY! MEANWHILE, THE TALBOTS GREW MORE AND MORE POWERFUL, UNTIL AT LAST--

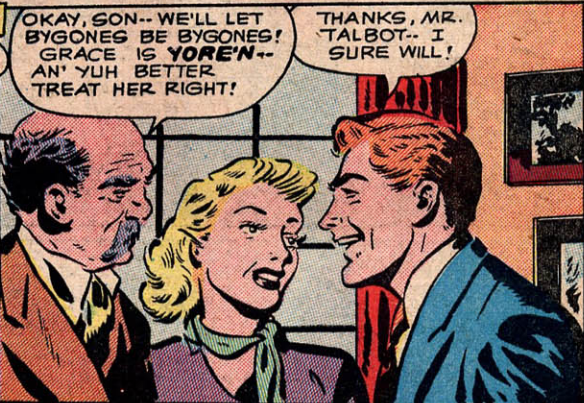


When BILL HAVER RETURNED HOME, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TALBOT HOMESTEAD! BUT INSTEAD OF SIXGUNS, HE WAS ARMED WITH-- A MARRIAGE LICENSE!



BUT, HENRY TALBOT WAS OLD-- AND TIRED!

MEBBE THE YOUNG 'UNS ARE **RIGHT!** I OWE MUH GOOD FORTUNE TUH THE MONEY I STOLE FROM SILAS HAVER-- AND BILL NEVER TOOK PART IN THE FEUD!



BUT-- IF THE FEUD WAS ENDED FOR THE LIVING-- IT WAS ONLY STARTING-- **FOR THE DEAD!** FOR AT THAT MOMENT-- FROM AN OLD TOMB--

WHAT THE---! THE FRENCH WINDOW BLEW OPEN! WH-WHO'S THERE?

HENRY TALBOT THINKS HE HAS WON-- BUT HE'S **WRONG!** THE TIME HAS COME-- FOR ME TO **STRIKE!**



IT'S ME-- **SILAS HAVER!** I SAID I'D COME BACK, AND-- **I HAVE!**

N-NO! STAND BACK OR I'LL...

NO, TALBOT--
THERE'S NO
ESCAPE-- NOT
THIS
TIME!

YAAHHH!

A GURGLING SCREAM-- A SICKENING "CRACK"-- AND THE
REVENGE OF THE DEAD HAD BEGUN ITS DREADFUL COURSE!

HE IS THE **FIRST**-- NOW ALL
THE TALBOTS MUST DIE!

A DREARY
DAWN FELL
ACROSS THE
MISTY LAND--
SCAPE AS
HENRY TALBOT
WAS LAID TO
REST! THEN,
FROM THE DAMP
SHADOWS-- A
GREY MIST
TOOK ON
FEARSOME
SHAPE--

SEE-- ALL THE TALBOTS GATHER
AT THE FUNERAL! **STRIKE--
LEAVE NONE ALIVE!**

**BILL--
WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING?**

**WITHOUT MERCY, THE
DEAD HAVERS--
SUMMONED BY THE
VENGEFUL SILAS--
ATTACKED!**

THIS WAY,
GRACE--
HURRY!

YAAHHH!

THAT NIGHT, BILL HAD A
SPECTRAL VISITOR--THE
SPECTRE OF HIS LONG-
DEAD GRANDFATHER,
SILAS--WHO TOLD THE
STORY OF HENRY TALBOT'S
OLD CRIME AGAINST
THE HAVERS!

-- YOU SEE NOW WHY
YOU CAN'T MARRY
THAT GIRL! SHE, THE
LAST LIVING TALBOT,
MUST DIE LIKE
THE REST!

WHAT HER GRANDFATHER
DID DOESN'T MAKE GRACE
A CRIMINAL! GO BACK
TO YOUR GRAVE--
AND LEAVE
US ALONE!

YOU
ARE A
HAVER--THUS
I CANNOT
HARM YOU!
BUT-- THE
GIRL IS
DOOMED!

DOOMED? BILL
FORMED A THOUSAND
PLANS DURING HIS
SLEEPLESS NIGHT!
NEXT DAY, SINGLING OUT
ONE-- HE BEGAN A
DESPERATE BID TO
SAVE THE LIFE OF
THE GIRL HE LOVED!

NOW-- IF I CAN
GET THE **MAYOR**
TO CO-OPERATE!

YES, THE MAYOR CO-OPERATED! THEN, HURRYING TO A PRINTER'S--

NEXT, TO A BAKERY--WHILE TIME RAN OUT FOR THE DOOMED GIRL!

WELL-- CAN YOU DO IT?

HMM-- GUESS SO, IF I CAN FIND SOME OLD-FASHIONED TYPE!

LOOK-- WE BAKE BREAD HERE, NOT--

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!

HE HAD DONE ALL IN HIS MORTAL POWER TO DEFEAT THE DREAD FORCES FROM THE BEYOND! BUT AT THE LIBRARY OF THE TALBOT HOME-- A GHASTLY SIGHT AWAITED HIM!

YOU RETURN-- TO WATCH THE LAST TALBOT DIE!

WAIT! YOU'VE MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!

LOOK AT THIS! IT'S THE COUNTY'S PROPERTY RECORDS!

SO? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

THERE, IN BLACK AND WHITE, WAS THE EVIDENCE-- EVIDENCE THAT COULD NOT BE DOUBTED-- NOT EVEN BY SILAS!

HOPPIN' HORNED TOADS! THE GOLD WASN'T MINE!

On this day, a claim was staked by Henry Talbot, of the northern town, extend from the first Road to the Fox-bow River; the southern boundary to the---

EXACTLY! THE SPANISH GOLD WAS REALLY BURIED ON TALBOT PROPERTY! HE WAS JUSTIFIED IN SHOOTING YOU! YOU WERE TRESPASSING!

IT MUST BE TRUE-- IT'S IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD!

AFTER THE GRIM SPECTRES HAD DEPARTED--

IT WAS OFFICIAL, ALL RIGHT-- EXCEPT FOR THAT FAKED PAGE YOU HAD PRINTED TODAY, AND THEN BAKED TO MAKE IT LOOK YELLOW AND OLD! IT SAVED MY LIFE!

RIGHT, BUT OLD SILAS'S POOR MEMORY HELPED, TOO!

LOOKS LIKE THE FELD IS OVER-- AT LAST!

NO, DARLING-- FROM WHAT MY MARRIED FRIENDS TELL ME, IT'S JUST BEGINNING!

The AVENGING SOUL

"WHAT SCIENCE HAS CREATED, SCIENCE CAN DESTROY!" But is this belief true? For when science crosses the bridge of reality into the mysterious **UNKNOWN**-- who knows what horror-laden catastrophe may result? For the grisly account of a monstrous scientific mistake, we challenge you to read...

The Avenging Soul!

YOU FOOL! YOU CANNOT KILL ME-- TWICE!



THE HORROR DID NOT BEGIN ON THE NIGHT A WARPED MURDERER WAS ELECTROCUTED--

NOR DID IT BEGIN WHEN STAN BENSON CALLED AT THE PRISON FOR HIS BROTHER'S BODY--

NO-- THE TIME OF HORROR STARTED WHEN THE BRILLIANT YOUNG DOCTOR BROUGHT GAT BENSON'S CORPSE TO HIS SECLUDED LABORATORY--

TELL THE REPORTERS-- GAT BENSON IS DEAD!

IT'S STRANGE, DR. BENSON-- I MEAN-- YOU BEING AN EMINENT SCIENTIST, WHILE HE--

HE STILL DESERVES A DECENT BURIAL! THE DEAD ARE NO LONGER CRIMINALS!

... AND NOW, BROTHER-- IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE RIGHT-- IN A FEW MINUTES YOU WILL LIVE AGAIN!



AS THE TIME DREW NEAR FOR THE WELL-PLANNED EXPERIMENT, STAN'S LAB ASSISTANT FELT THE NUMBNESS OF TERROR CREEP OVER HER--

STAN-- IF WE SUCCEED, WE'LL BE SETTING FREE A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AGAIN!

JEAN-- THAT'S THE RISK I'VE GOT TO TAKE!

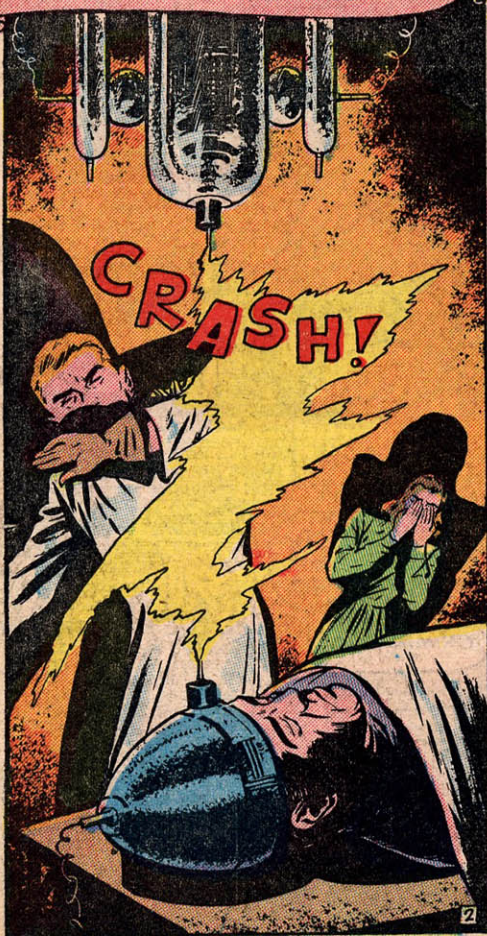
BUT I HAVE HOPES THAT DEATH WILL HAVE PURIFIED HIS SOUL-- THAT HE WILL COME BACK AS A USEFUL CITIZEN!

Then-- AS THE FATEFUL MOMENT APPROACHED--

IN A FEW SECONDS-- WE'LL KNOW!



A BRILLIANT FLASH OF CHAINED ENERGY-- A MOMENT OF BLINDNESS--



A LONG MOMENT OF SILENCE-- THEN--

LOOK-- HIS EYES ARE OPENING! HE'S-- ALIVE!

OH, STAN-- YOU DID IT!

H-HOW DO YOU FEEL, GAT?

DON'T TALK TO HIM NOW, JEAN-- HE'S BEEN THROUGH A TERRIBLE ORDEAL!



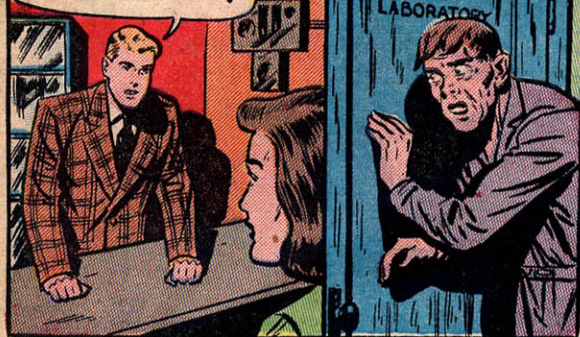
A WEEK PASSED, AND WITH EACH DAY GAT'S DECAYING FACE REVEALED THAT SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW-- STAN HAD ERRED!

WHAT DID THEY DO TO ME? I LOOK LIKE A CORPSE-- A CORPSE THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR A WEEK!



MEANWHILE, IN STAN'S OFFICE-- A SHOCKING EXPLANATION--

I'VE GOT TO FACE THE TRUTH, JEAN! ALTHOUGH I BROUGHT LIFE BACK INTO GAT'S BODY-- I DIDN'T BRING BACK HIS SOUL! I-- I'VE CREATED A MONSTER!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO-- GAT MUST DIE-- FOR THE SECOND TIME! SINCE HE HAS NO SOUL-- IT WON'T BE MURDER!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BROTHER!



YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WON'T BE MURDER-- NOT MINE, ANYWAY!

STAND BACK, JEAN! I GUESS THE SHOW-DOWN IS COMING SOONER THAN I THOUGHT!

GOOD HEAVENS!

The RAZOR-SHARP SCALPEL STRUCK HOME-- INTO THE HEART OF THE LIVING CORPSE!

FOOL!-- WHAT GOOD IS YOUR SCIENCE NOW?

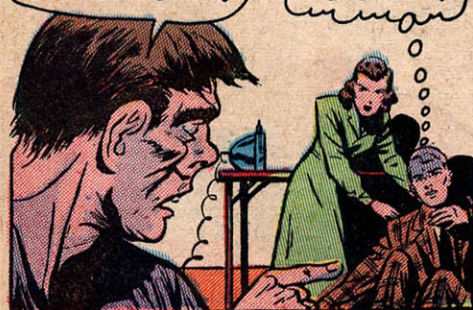
HIS NERVES--THEY'RE DESTROYED! HE NO LONGER FEELS PAIN!



But-- A SPARK OF HUMAN GRATITUDE REMAINED-- TO SPARE STAN'S LIFE--

YOU DID RESTORE MY LIFE-- SUCH AS IT IS-- SO YOU MAY LIVE! BUT CROSS MY PATH AGAIN-- AND I'LL KILL YOU BOTH!

GREAT SCOTT-- HE'S STILL A HOMICIDAL FIEND, ONLY NOW HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!



Thus WAS BRUTE HORROR RELEASED-- AS A DISEASED MIND SOUGHT VENGEANCE ON SOCIETY!

THEY NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE-- ANY OF THEM! NOW THEY'LL PAY-- WITH THEIR LIVES!



NEXT DAY-- IN BLARING HEADLINES--

IT'S BEGUN... AND I'M RESPONSIBLE!

LET'S GO TO THE POLICE, STAN-- BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN!

WHAT? YOU SAY GAT BENSON KILLED THESE PEOPLE? MISTER, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS HE WAS-- BEFORE THEY ELECTROCUTED HIM!

IF YOU'RE SO SURE-- WHY NOT CHECK THE FINGER-PRINTS?

THIS IS -- UNBELIEVABLE! THE FINGERPRINTS ARE GAT'S! WE DIDN'T THINK TO CHECK THE PRINTS OF A DEAD MAN!

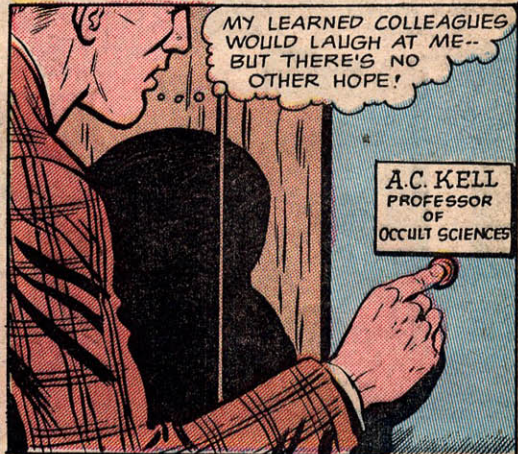
SURE-- ONLY GAT ISN'T DEAD!



CHIEF-- BECAUSE OF THE STRANGE NATURE OF THIS CASE, WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE IT-- MY WAY?

OKAY, DOC-- WHATEVER YOU SAY!

REALIZING NOW THAT HIS BATTLE WAS WITH THE SUPERNATURAL-- STAN KNEW THERE WAS BUT ONE WAY TO FIGHT IT!

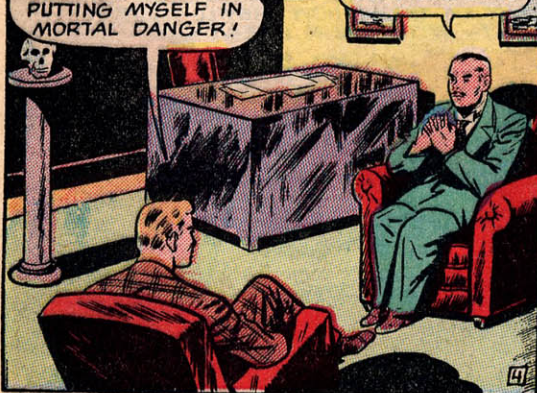


MY LEARNED COLLEAGUES WOULD LAUGH AT ME-- BUT THERE'S NO OTHER HOPE!

HOURS LATER-- AFTER THE STORY IS TOLD--

PROF. KELL-- ARE YOU SURE YOUR SOLUTION WILL WORK? AFTER ALL, I'LL BE PUTTING MYSELF IN MORTAL DANGER!

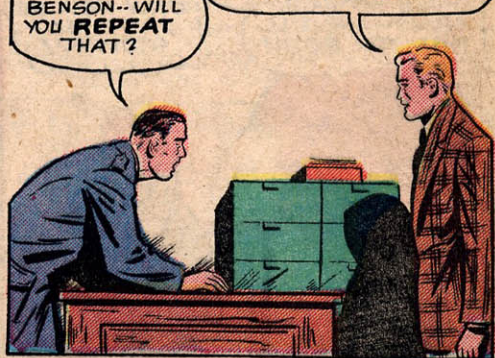
I KNOW IT-- BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT!



Armed with new and terrifying information-- STAN RETURNED TO POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS--

WHA--! DR. BENSON-- WILL YOU REPEAT THAT?

I SAID-- I WANT YOU TO ELECTROCUTE ME!



THE CASE HARDENED CHIEF FELT HIS STOMACH FREEZE AS STAN REVEALED HIS FANTASTIC PLAN--

SO, STAN PREPARED TO OFFER HIS LIFE-- TO SET STRAIGHT HIS OWN GHASTLY MISTAKE--

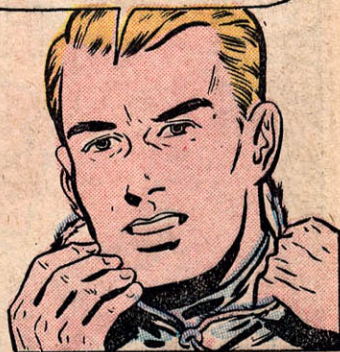
I HOPE NOT! THIS ROPE IS CALLED A JU-JU HALTER! THE VODOO MEN OF HAITI USE IT TO BIND THE SOULS OF ZOMBIES! YOU'LL SEE HOW IT WORKS-- SOON!

GAT CAN BE DEFEATED ONLY BY A BEING LIKE HIMSELF -- A LIVING CORPSE! AND THAT'S WHAT I MUST BECOME!

IT'S YOUR FUNERAL, DOC-- BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO GET THE GOVERNOR'S OKAY--

YOU SEE, WARDEN, WHEN GAT WAS ELECTROCUTED, HIS SOUL IMMEDIATELY LEFT HIS BODY-- AND I COULDN'T RECAPTURE IT!

BUT WON'T THAT HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO?



MOMENTS LATER, A NOD FROM THE WARDEN -- AND A POWERFUL ELECTRICAL SWITCH WAS THROWN--

EVEN AS STAN WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD, JEAN WENT INTO ACTION IN A NEARBY CELL THAT SERVED AS A TEMPORARY LAB--

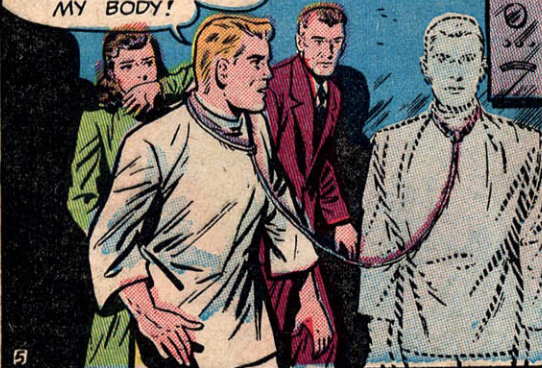


STAN, DARLING-- PLEASE COME BACK-- YOU'VE GOT TO!



THEN-- A MYSTIFYING SIGHT-- AS STAN ROSE TO HIS FEET... BUT NOT ALONE!

THE JU-JU HALTER-- IT WORKED! THERE'S MY SOUL-- UNABLE TO GET AWAY FROM MY BODY!



DOCTOR SAYS GAT BENSON STILL ALIVE-- STILL KILLING! EXTRA!

IF THAT NEWSPAPER STORY ACTS AS BAIT -- GAT SHOULD BE WAITING FOR US! C'MON!



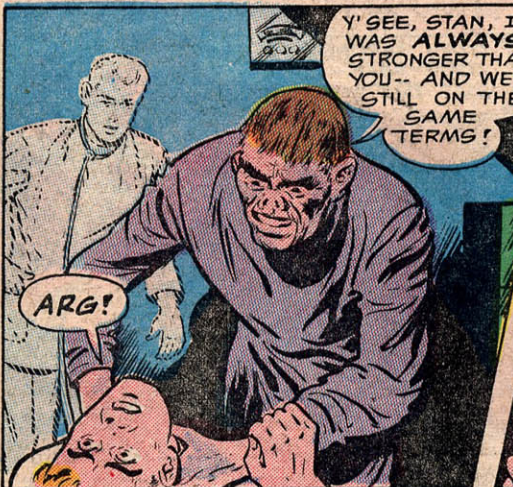
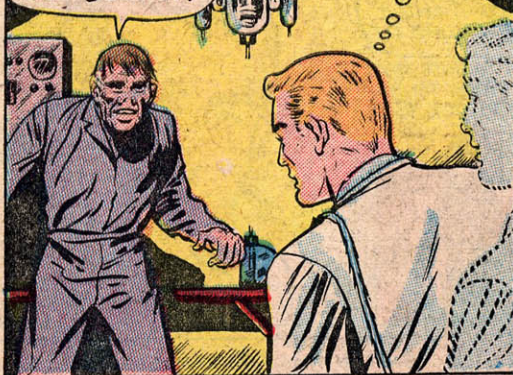
THE "BAIT" HAD WORKED-- FOR WHEN STAN RETURNED TO HIS LABORATORY--

HA! I'VE BEEN WAITING--TO SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO A **SQUEALER!** GET READY TO DIE-- **SLOWLY!**

I-- I MUST GO THROUGH WITH IT!

As THE LIVING DEAD CLASHED IN MORTAL COMBAT--

WHAT THE--! YOU'RE A **LIVING DEAD MAN--** LIKE ME! I-- I CAN TELL BY YOUR EYES! WELL, IT WON'T WORK, YOU FOOL!



Y' SEE, STAN, I WAS **ALWAYS** STRONGER THAN YOU-- AND WE'RE STILL ON THE SAME TERMS!

ARG!

But NOW, STAN'S SOUL -- ARMED WITH THE GIANT STRENGTH OF JUSTICE-- **STRUCK!**

WHO-- WHAT IS IT?

I AM STAN'S SOUL, MONSTER-- READY TO DEFEND HIM! HIS BODY **ALONE** COULD NEVER OVERCOME YOU -- BUT WITH THE MIGHT OF AN UPRIGHT SOUL, IT CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED! NOW-- RETURN TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

Thus DID THE DECAYING BODY OF GAT BENSON JOIN HIS SOUL -- IN EVERLASTING DEATH!

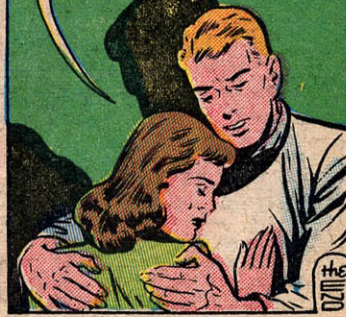
As STAN REMOVED THE JU-JU HALTER--

STAN, DEAR-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW-- BUT I'LL FIND OUT IN A SECOND!

Y-- YOUR SOUL -- IT **VANISHED BACK INTO YOUR BODY!**

OH, DARLING, IT'S ALL OVER-- AT LAST!

YOU KNOW, HONEY-- MOST MEN SAY, "I'D DIE FOR YOU, SWEET-HEART!" BUT I CAN SAY-- **I DID DIE** FOR YOU, SWEETHEART!



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